



***Area of Study: Reading and the Study of Texts***

Text: Newspaper article "Chook plan has town in a flap"

Source: Herald Sun Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000

**Questions**

1. Briefly summarise the two sides to the dispute reported in this article. Your summary should include the main contention and the supporting arguments put by the opposing sides.
2. Find all the references to children and family in the article (there are four). What is the intended impact on the reader of these? Are they effective? Would the points being made be less powerful if these references were omitted?
3. The Residents Association intends to call tenders for an impact study to "see how the broiler sheds will affect us health-wise, economically, environmentally and socially".

What concerns might they have in each of these four areas?

4. Find two examples of emotive language<sup>1</sup>. What is the intended effect of these on the reader?
5. What is the effect on the reader of:
  - 5.1 The headline for the article. How seriously does it treat the issue? Consider the pun "in a flap" How are the reader's expectations of the article after reading this?
  - 5.2 The quotation at the top of the article.
6. What does the graphic add to the article?
7. Write your response to the general issue raised by the Bushby family, that "people who have moved into a rural area should accept rural events and rural business".

---

<sup>1</sup> **Language analysis:** *Emotive language*

Our feelings can be manipulated. Sometimes this is desirable (because we are human beings and cannot expect that our arguments will be devoid of emotion); sometime this may be undesirable (if the emotional appeal has no good arguments to support it). We need to make sure that when we do respond emotionally, that our feelings do not overwhelm us and prevent us from looking at other relevant aspects of the argument being presented to us.